

To

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

(Late the Rural Sanitary Authority),

ST. COLUMB MAJOR.

---

ANNUAL REPORT.

1894

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1894.

As this is my 15th Annual Report, it will be surmised, and rightly, than I can have little that is new to submit to you. I will not take up your time unnecessarily therefore, but will state at once that so far as Sanitary matters are concerned, the District is in much the same condition as reported to you last year; and the following subjects come up from last year as being still undisposed of, viz. :—

Scavenging, Water Supply and Drainage of Wadebridge.

Public Highways converted into Common Sewers.

Water Supply in various places insufficient and impure.

Total abolition of Pit Closets.

No Hospital for Infectious Disorders.

No Disinfecting apparatus.

Non-adoption of the “Acts” designed to improve Public Health, but dependent on voluntary adoption.

There is a further list of subjects supplementary to the above contained in the Report of the Sanitary committee of the County Council of the date of the 6th November, 1894, which may be considered at the same time.

During the year the Health Officers made 391 inspections apportioned as follows :

|                           |     |     |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|
| Medical Officer of Health | ... | 95  |
| Inspector of Nuisances    | ... | 296 |
| Total                     |     | 391 |

A great many of these inspections had for their object the abatement of nuisances, the most flagrant of which was the persistent use of the public highways for the purpose of conveying sewage. The other Nuisances dealt with were defective drainage, dirty pig lairs, cess pits, accumulations of house refuse, pit closets, and insufficient closet accommodation. The Inspector has been most active, and gives prompt and energetic attention to all these matters.

Disinfection and Isolation are carried out as formerly.

Overcrowding has been dealt with on two occasions, but the action of the Officers is hampered by the insufficient house accommodation which often exists.

Housing of the Working Classes is being gradually improved. It is impossible to improve it in any other way without entailing great hardship and inconvenience, especially upon those whom it is desired to benefit. When the improvement is sufficiently advanced, overcrowding and other accompanying evils will be less excusable, and can be dealt with in a more prompt and efficient manner.

The Water Supply is as reported last year, except at St. Columb, where a plentiful and fairly pure supply has at last been obtained. Unfortunately, however, the water becomes turbid after heavy rains, and requires filtering. The turbidity is due to suspended matters. After these have settled, or the water has been filtered, the salts in solution are comparatively unimportant.

The following is the analysis of the St. Columb Water supply before heavy rains:

|                                   |     |            |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------------|
| Chlorine in Chlorides             | ... | 1.75       |
| Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites | ... | .152       |
| Ammonia Free                      | ... | .0037      |
| „ Albuminoid                      | ... | .0035      |
| Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours        | ... | .064       |
| Solids                            | ... | 9.         |
| Hardness (Clark's Scale)          |     | 3½ degrees |

The year has been a wet one, and there has been a plentiful supply of water throughout the district, but, as there is ample proof from previous experiences, the water supply during a dry year is quite inadequate, and quoting from a previous report, is a “constant menace” to the health of the people.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Public Health of the District during the year has again been good. The number of Deaths has been exactly the same as last year, viz. :—193. The Death Rate is therefore also the same, viz.: 16·308 per 1000. There are, however, certain points of contrast in the respective tables for the two years. The chief of these are that

- 1st The deaths from Zymotic diseases have diminished.
- 2nd There were no deaths from Injuries.
- 3rd The number of deaths of Infants under 5 years has increased.

There were 17 inquests held in the District during the year, viz. :

On Children 7

„ Adults 10

“ Natural Causes ” was in the majority of these cases accounted as the cause of death.

Zymotic outbreaks occurred on 17 different occasions, and were generally nipped in the bud. The table appended will show at a glance the locality of these outbreaks, as well as their extent, and the measures taken to arrest their progress. The chief outbreak as regards number of cases, was an epidemic of Scarlatina, which was present in St. Columb and St. Enoder, and to a slighter extent in St. Columb Minor, during the months of June, July, August, September and October. From want of Notification the number of cases is not exactly known, but it is supposed to have been not less than 50. Happily there were no deaths. In consequence of this outbreak the school at Summercourt was closed for six weeks, and a special report was made, copies of which were sent to the Local Government Board, and also to the County Council.

The largest number of deaths from Zymotic disease is credited to Whooping Cough. There were 8 deaths ; but from the cause indicated in the case of Scarlatina, the number of cases is unknown. The disease was more or less prevalent throughout the year, especially in the locality of Newlyn, where 5 out of the 8 deaths occurred.

Typhoid Fever was accountable for two deaths. Both were sporadic in their origin. There were 4 other cases which recovered. These were all distinct from each other, and in no instance did they become sources for the further propagation of the infection. One of them was imported from Marazion. The others were due to defective Sanitary arrangements.

There were 5 different outbreaks of Diphtheria during the year. There were only 6 cases altogether however, and 1 death. Pit Closets and bad Sanitary arrangements, were supposed, as in the Typhoid outbreaks, to be the chief causes of the various outbreaks.

To Influenza is credited 12 deaths. The number of cases is unknown, and the localities of its incidence were chiefly those of St. Columb and Newlyn.

Cancer caused 12 deaths, a diminution of 1 as compared with last year.

Vaccination is in the position in which it was left at the time of last year's report, except that the Vaccination Commission appears to have issued an interim report, which, so far as our district is concerned, has not made the administration of the act any easier.

The Births registered during the year numbered 309, viz. :—163 boys and 146 girls. The Birth Rate has consequently increased to 26·112 as compared with 24·5 last year.

I append hereto the Official Tables A and B, and also the usual Tabular Statement of Infectious disorders occurring during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. C. MACKAY, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

St. Columb, 30th January, 1895.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISORDERS.

| No. | Date.               | Place.                                                                                   | Disease.                    | No. of Cases.          | Cause.                                | Action Taken.                                                            |
|-----|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | January             | St. Columb<br>St. Enodor<br>Newlyn                                                       | Influenza<br>do.<br>Typhoid | Unknown<br>"<br>1 died | Unknown<br>"<br>Sporadic              | Little beyond a feeble attempt at isolation                              |
| 2   |                     | St. Columb Minor                                                                         |                             |                        |                                       |                                                                          |
| 3   | February            | St. Issey                                                                                | Diphtheria                  | 1                      | Unknown                               | Clothes burnt, fumigation and limewashing and<br>thorough disinfection   |
| 4   |                     | St. Columb Minor                                                                         | Scarlatina                  | 1                      |                                       | Isolation and disinfection                                               |
| 5   |                     | St. Enoder                                                                               | Diphtheria                  | 1                      | "                                     | Do. do.                                                                  |
| 6   | March               | St. Columb Minor                                                                         | Scarlatina                  | 2                      | "                                     | Do. do. and School warned                                                |
| 7   |                     | St. Columb Minor                                                                         | Diphtheria                  | 1 died                 | "                                     | Do. do.                                                                  |
| 8   |                     | Wadebridge                                                                               | do.                         | 1                      | "                                     | Do. do.                                                                  |
| 9   | April               | St. Merryn                                                                               | Typhoid                     | 1 died                 | Sporadic                              | Do. do.                                                                  |
| 10  | June to October.    | White Cross<br>St. Enoder<br>Summercourt<br>Newlyn                                       |                             |                        |                                       |                                                                          |
|     |                     | St. Columb Minor<br>Kestle Mill<br>Blue Anchor<br>Indian Queens<br>St. Columb.<br>Newlyn | Scarlatina                  | 50 or more             | School at Summercourt became infected | Isolation and disinfection, school closed, fumigated<br>and lime washed. |
| 11  | September           |                                                                                          | Typhoid                     | 1                      | Imported                              | Isolation and disinfection                                               |
| 12  |                     |                                                                                          | "                           | 1                      | Impure Water                          | Do. do.                                                                  |
| 13  | October             | St. Columb.                                                                              | "                           | 1                      | Unknown                               | Do. do.                                                                  |
| 14  | November            | "                                                                                        | "                           | 1                      | Sewer Gas                             | Sanitary faults remedied                                                 |
| 15  | Do.                 | "                                                                                        | Diphtheria                  | 2                      | Pit Closets                           | Do. do.                                                                  |
| 16  | December            | "                                                                                        | Erysipelas                  | 1                      | Unknown                               | Isolation and disinfection                                               |
| 17  | January to December | Every part of the District almost                                                        | Whooping Cough              | Unknown. 8 deaths.     | "                                     |                                                                          |

